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5 February 1959

HIGHEST PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TALENT

1. Basic to the requirement for early warning of the imminence of a Soviet nuclear attack on the United States is the requirement for reliable information on the present and future Soviet capabilities for such an attack. Such information is also critical to our national defense policy and planning. During the past three years limited TALENT coverage has been by far the most lucrative source of reliable information on which we have based our estimates of the Soviet capabilities for nuclear attack. At the present time there is an urgent need for TALENT coverage of certain objectives and areas known to be or suspected to be associated with the three major elements (ballistic missile, aircraft, and nuclear capability) of the nuclear threat.
2. The most <sup>gw</sup> critical intelligence problem at this time is the status of the Soviet ~~ICBM~~ program, an inherent threat of overriding magnitude. Studies over the past two years by the US Intelligence Community have concluded that TALENT provides the only available means offering reasonable assurance of obtaining on an immediate basis the required intelligence on the deployment of Soviet <sup>gw</sup> ICBMs. Certain rail lines which lend themselves to rail launch or logistic support for fixed sites and test sites are prime search areas for this information. Also, test sites will provide data on the Soviet space program. Increased urgency has been lent to the deployment question by recent evidence of ICBM series production. Coverage of the most suspect production facilities may help to confirm this.
3. Other requirements (not in order of priority) for TALENT coverage which are also critical to national security are set forth in the following paragraphs.
4. A part of the Soviet ballistic missile capability, it is recognized, may be that of launch from submarines, nuclear powered or conventional.

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Our need is to determine the possible modification of existing craft, construction of new ballistic missile submarines, and employment of both. TALENT coverage offers the best available means of answering the questions on production, characteristics, and employment of submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles.

5. The existence of a Soviet IRBM capability is recognized as a fact although this capability is less critical to the United States than the ICBM. It constitutes an immediate and continuing threat to the West. TALENT coverage offers the best known means to answer the question of what is the deployment concept and should assist with information on the capability of these weapons as well as their production.

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8. Photographic objectives (targets) to fulfill the needs outlined above are set forth in the attachment. In keeping with the concept of this paper, the targets bearing on the ICBM are listed as **MOST CRITICAL** and the others as **CRITICAL** within Highest Priority Requirements.

**JAMES Q. REBER**

**Chairman**

**Ad Hoc Requirements Committee**

**Attachment**

**Tab A**

**OACSI (cy 2)**

**ONI (cy 3)**

**AFCIN (cys 4&5)**

**AFCIN-Z (cy 6)**

**NSA (cy 7)**

**State (cy 8)**

**JCS (cy 9)**

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